Setting up of Centres for Electronic Materials

746. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up centres for materials for electronic technology, if so, their cost and locations and the role these centres are expected to perform and whether there is a demand and scope for such a centre in Gujarat;

(b) what steps are taken for upgradation of skill and technology in the electronics industry and for imparting appropriate information technology;

(c) whether Government propose to set up integrated electronics complexes in the country; if so, their location and whether the State Governments have been consulted regarding this scheme; and

(d) if so, the response and views of Government of Gujarat in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has proposed to set up three Centres for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET) located at Hyderabad (A.P.) Pune (Maharashtra), and Trichur (Kerala) with project outlays of Rs. 494 lakhs, Rs. 483 lakhs and Rs. 468 lakhs respectively. These Centres would be set up under Electronics Materials Development Agency, a programme of Department of Electronics. The main objectives of these Centres are as under:

1. To establish development-cum-pilot production of critical materials, so as to ascertain techno-economic viability of the process for commercialisation, for field trials for export, market development etc.

2. To set up pilot plant to supply strategic electronics materials to meet vital requirement of the R&D and Industry.

3. To establish adequate infrastructure to provide routine services to industry and R&D in testing, characterisation and failure analysis of Electronics Materials.

4. To establish data base on Electronics Materials.

These Centres are not planned on the basis of local demand. They are planned on the basis of availability of know-how| expertise in relevant field at the respective places and would cater to the national needs. In view of this, no such Centre is planned in Gujarat.

(b) The various programmes of the Department of Electronics (DOE) take into account the need for upgradation of skill and technology in electronics industry as mentioned below:—

(i) Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and National Centre for Software Technology (NOST) etc. to do advanced research and development in computer hardware and software.

(ii) Under National Radar Council (NRC) programme a number of technology development projects have been given financial support.

(iii) Centre for Electronics Interconnection and Packaging (CEIP) at New Delhi and Solder School at Hyderabad conduct courses at these centres for upgradation of industrial skill in soldering.

(iv) Establishment of Centres for Electronics Design and Technology and Electronics Test and Development Centre in the country.

(v) Technician Training programme.

(vi) Development of manpower for computers in various institutions.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.